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Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 L-03
H-01 SS-15 NSC-05 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01
USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /068 W
----------261203Z 050995 /46
R 260615Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4145

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR LE
SUBJ: CIVAIR PETITION FROM TMA

1. ON MAY 25, GHAZI KRAYTEM, SHAWKI KHOURY, SAMI SAADEH, PETER ABI YOUNIS, AND IBRAHIM SHEHAB, ALL SENIOR TMA OFFICIALS, PRESENTED CHARGE WITH PETITION SIGNED BY OVER 600 TMA EMPLOYEES. IT ASKS PRESIDENT CARTER AND AMBASSADOR TO SUPPORT TMA'S POSITION ON TRAFFIC RIGHTS AND OPERATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD IN FORTHCOMING GOL-USG CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS. TEXT AS FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

THE DISASTER THAT NEARLY DEMOLISHED LEBANON IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, IS NOW OVER.

LEBANON REQUIRES AND REQUESTS EVERY ASSISTANCE FROM ITS OWN NATIONALS AND FROM ITS FRIENDS, TO REBUILD ITS PEACE AND ECONOMY.

LEBANON REQUIRES ITS COMMERCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INDUSTRIES TO BE REBUILT AND EXPANDED, TO PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT
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TO THE LEBANESE WORK FORCE.

NO SOONER HAS THE WAR ENDED, THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TOOK STEPS TO CUT DOWN THE OPERATION OF TMA INTO THE UNITED STATES. THIS ACTION WAS NOT EXPECTED FROM A NATION CONSIDERED ALWAYS A SUPPORTER OF LEBANON AND ITS FREE ECONOMY.

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WHEN LEBANON WAS PROSPEROUS AND A CENTRE OF BUSINESS
IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE UNITED STATES BUSINESS COMMUNITY TOOK
EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO EARN SUBSTANTIAL REVENUES FROM LEBANON,
WITHOUT LEBANON BEING ABLE TO EQUALLY RECIPROCATE.

IN 1974, THE YEAR OF THE LAST STATISTICS AVAILABLE,
LEBANON PURCHASED FROM THE U.S.A. FOR OVER 200 MILLION DOLLARS,
WHILST THE U.S. BOUGHT FROM LEBANON FOR LESS THAN 10 MILLIONS.

EVEN IN THE FIELD OF AVIATION, PAA SERVED BEIRUT AIRPORT
SINCE 1952, WITH NO RECIPROCATION FROM LEBANESE CARRIERS UNTIL
1971. PAA EARNED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN THOSE YEARS. TOTAL
PAA EARNING OVER THE YEARS 1970 TO 1975 WERE OVER 118 MILLIONS
LEBANESE POUNDS.

BETWEEN 1971 AND 1974, PAA WAS EARNING IN LEBANON TWICE
AS MUCH AS TMA, AND WAS OPERATING EIGHTEEN FLIGHTS A WEEK,
ELEVEN OF WHICH WENT ROUND THE WORLD, BOTH WAYS.

LEBANON, THAT PROSPEROUS, FRIENDLY, AND BEAUTIFUL LEBANON,
ENJOYED AND BENEFITED FROM BY THE U.S. FIRMS HAS BEEN STRUCK
BY DISASTER, LEBANON IS NO LONGER AS BEAUTIFUL AND AS
PROSPEROUS, AND MONEY CANNOT NOW BE EARNED AS BEFORE.

THEREFORE TMA IS BEING IMMEDIATELY ORDERED TO CUT DOWN ITS
OPERATION TO THE U.S. AND THE ROUND THE WORLD SERVICES HAVE
TO BE CANCELLED.

LEBANON AND TMA ARE NOW DENIED TO CONTINUE THE ROUND THE
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WORLD SERVICES ALTHOUGH TMA PIONEERED THESE SERVICES AND WAS
THE FIRST TO BLAZE THE AIRCARGO TRAIL AROUND THE WORLD.

TMA CAN AND WILL SURVIVE WVEN WITHOUT OPERATION TO THE
U.S. BUT THE COST IS LESS EMPLOYMENT, AT A TIME LEBANON NEEDS
MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND BEST SUPPORT FROM ITS FRIENDS.

WE, THE EMPLOYEES OF TMA, ARE AFFECTED; THE LEBANESE
ECONOMY IS AFFECTED. TMA IS ONE OF THE FEW LEBANESE ENTERPRISES
THAT SURVIVED THE WAR, WITHOUT A GREAT DEAL OF DAMAGE: IT
NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT AND NOT PENELIZATION, AS THE UNITED STATES
IS NOW TRYING TO DO.

THE LEBANXESE GOVERNMENT HAS, TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE,
DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DISSUADE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT FROM
CURTAILING THE TMA OPERATION, BUT WITHOUT MUCH SUCCESS.

WE APPEAL TO THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND HIS ENVOY IN LEBANON
TO STUDY THE CIVIL AVIATION RELATIONS BETWEEN LEBANON AND THE

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U.S. IN TERMS OTHER THAN THE PRESENT AND IMMEDIATE EXCHANGE OF
SHORT TERM BENEFITS.

END OF TEXT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: LOBBYING, AVIATION AGREEMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, AIR ROUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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